

II. AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of managing device identifiers, the method comprising:

providing a set of device entries at a server;

generating a unique device identifier for ~~each~~ every device entry in the set of device entries, wherein the generating of a unique device identifier is automatically performed by the server or a unique device identifier is manually selected, wherein the generating is based on a particular user and a particular device, and wherein the unique device identifier of ~~each~~ every device entry is stored permanently in ~~each~~ every respective device corresponding to ~~each~~ every device entry for subsequent communication with the server; ~~and~~

associating correlation data with each of the set of device entries, wherein the correlation data includes a device type, ~~and user data,~~ and device identifier status;

obtaining one of the set of device entries based on correlation data for a particular device, wherein the device identifier status for the obtained one of the set of device entries indicates that the device identifier is unused;

receiving a request from the particular device for an assigned device identifier, wherein the request includes correlation data for the particular device;

communicating the device identifier for the one of the set of device entries to the particular device;

setting the device identifier status to indicate that the device identifier for the device entry is pending after communicating the device identifier;

receiving an acknowledgment from the particular device for the communicated device identifier; and

setting the device identifier status to indicate that the device identifier for the device entry is in use after receiving the acknowledgment.

2. – 7. (Canceled)

8. (Currently Amended) The method of claim [[3]] 1, further comprising generating a new device entry based on the received correlation data for the particular device.

9. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the user data includes at least one of: a user name, a password, a personal identification number, and a passkey.

10. (Currently Amended) A method of assigning a device identifier, the method comprising:

providing a set of device entries at a server, wherein ~~each~~ every device entry includes a unique device identifier and correlation data, wherein the unique device identifier is generated automatically by the server or a unique device identifier is manually selected, wherein the generating is based on a particular user and a particular device, and wherein the unique device identifier of ~~each~~ every device entry is stored permanently in ~~each~~ every respective device corresponding to ~~each~~ every device entry for subsequent communication with the server;

receiving a request from a device, wherein the request includes correlation data for the device;

identifying one of the set of device entries by comparing the correlation data in the request to the correlation data in the set of device entries; and

communicating the device identifier from the one of the set of device entries to the device;

receiving an acknowledgment from the device for the communicated identifier, wherein the device entry further includes a device identifier status, the method further comprising setting the device identifier status to indicate that the device identifier is in use after receiving the acknowledgment.

11. – 12. (Canceled)

13. (Original) The method of claim 10, further comprising:

obtaining user data for a user; and

generating at least one of the set of device entries using the user data for the user before the request is received.

14. (Currently Amended) A system for managing device identifiers, the system comprising:

a management system for managing a set of device entries at a server, wherein the management system includes:

a generation system for generating a unique device identifier for ~~each~~ every device entry in the set of device entries, wherein the generating of a unique device identifier is automatically performed by the server or a unique device identifier is manually selected, wherein the generating is based on a particular user and a particular device, and wherein the unique device identifier of ~~each~~ every device entry is stored permanently in ~~each~~ every respective device corresponding to ~~each~~ every device entry for subsequent communication with the server; and

an entry update system for updating device entries, wherein the updating includes associating correlation data with each of the set of device entries, wherein the correlation data includes a device type, ~~and~~ user data, and device identifier status, and wherein the updating includes setting the device identifier status.

15. (Original) The system of claim 14, wherein the management system further includes a data input system for obtaining correlation data for a user and generating at least one of the set of device entries using the correlation data for the user.

16. (Original) The system of claim 14, further comprising a communication system for communicating with a device.

17. (Original) The system of claim 14, further comprising a comparison system for obtaining one of the set of device entries based on correlation data for a particular device.

18. (Original) The system of claim 14, further including a verification system for verifying correlation data received from a particular device.

19. (Currently Amended) A program product stored on a computer readable medium for managing device identifiers, which when executed by a computer comprises:

program code for automatically generating a unique device identifier for ~~each~~ every device entry in a set of device entries, wherein the generating of a unique device identifier is automatically performed by the server or a unique device identifier is manually selected, wherein the generating is performed by the computer, wherein the generating is based on a particular user and a particular device, and wherein the unique device identifier of ~~each~~ every device entry is stored permanently in ~~each~~ every respective device corresponding to ~~each~~ every device entry for subsequent communication with the server; and

program code for associating correlation data with each of the set of device entries, wherein the correlation data includes a device type, ~~and user data, and device identifier status~~;

program code for setting the device identifier status.

20. (Original) The program product of claim 19, further comprising program code for communicating the device identifier of one of the set of device entries to a particular device.

21. (Original) The program product of claim 19, further comprising:

program code for receiving a request from the particular device, wherein the request includes correlation data for the particular device;

program code for verifying the correlation data for the particular device; and

program code for identifying one of the set of device entries by comparing the correlation data in the request to the correlation data in the set of device entries.

22. (Original) The program product of claim 19, further comprising:

program code for obtaining user data for a user; and

program code for generating at least one of the set of device entries using the user data for the user.